Employment Opportunities and Liberalisation of Industrial Policy

1080. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that liberalisation of our industrial policy has not generated employment opportunities on expected lines and the unemployment is growing unabated amongst educated youth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present backlog of educated unemployed in the country;

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to check this growing unemployment; and

(d) whether Government intend to give unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) to (c) Total unemployment which was estimated to be 17 million at the beginning of the 8th Five Year Plan is estimated at 18.69 million by the end of March, 1995. The break-up of this figure, according to educated and uneducated, is not available.

Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Based on the targeted rate of growth of the economy at 5.6% per annum, the Plan envisages generation of additional employment opportunities of the order of 8.5 million per year on an average through an employment oriented growth strategy supplemented by special employment programmes. The Eighth Plan employment strategy includes:

(i) A faster and geographically crop-wise diversified growth of agriculture;

(ii) Faster growth of activities allied to agriculture and agro-based industries;

(iii) Development of productive utilisation of wastelands;

(iv) Promotion of non-agricultural, particularly manufacturing activities, in rural areas;

(v) Special attention to the growth of the small and decentralised manufacturing sector;

(vi) Large scale expansion of construction of infrastructure and residential accommodation;

(vii) Strengthening of basic health and education facilities, particularly in the rural areas;

(viii) Faster growth of the services and informal sector activities through greater ease of entry and suitable support system.

In addition to expanding on-going special employment programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), and Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), new initiatives like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and the scheme to provide two million jobs in the Khadi & Village Industries sector have also been taken in the Eighth Plan. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP) aims at integration of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poor segments of the society and educated youth of the country. The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana aims to at checking unemployment among educated youth and covers both urban and rural areas.

(d) The Central Government has no proposal to pay unemployment allowance to any category of unemployed persons.

Participation of medium and small sector in coal industry

1081. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the liberalisation of